

Message Text

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61

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 H-03 SCS-03 SCA-01 CIAE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 RSC-01 INRE-00 L-03 SY-10 PA-04 PRS-01 USIE-00

SSO-00 SS-20 NSC-07 NSCE-00 DRC-01 /085 W

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O 082212Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE NIACT 7723

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTIAGO 1163

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: CASC, CI

SUBJECT: REPORT OF TERUGGI SR. ON CHILE VISIT

REF: STATE 046918

1. I DO NOT KNOW HOW MUCH ATTENTION REPORT OF SELF-STYLED "CHICAGO GROUP" WILL RECEIVE IN US, AND WHETHER DEPARTMENT WILL FEEL IT WORTH WHILE TO COMMENT ON IT. IF A DEPARTMENT STATEMENT OF ANY KIND IS NECESSARY, I HOPE FOLLOWING WILL BE BORNE IN MIND.

2. MEMBERS OF EMBASSY STAFF WHO WERE HERE IN SEPTEMBER 1973 AND INVOLVED IN EVENTS WHICH TOOK PLACE AT THAT TIME WENT OUT OF THEIR WAY TO BE HELPFUL TO CHICAGO GROUP. I SAT WITH THE GROUP, AND WITH THESE MEMBERS OF EMBASSY STAFF, FOR ONE HOUR AND A HALF ON FEBRUARY 18; AND I SPENT HALF-HOUR WITH MR. TERUGGI JUST BEFORE HIS DEPARTURE.

3. IN ADDITION, AS REPORTED SANTIAGO 953, OTHER OFFICERS HELD SEVERAL LENGTHY MEETINGS WITH VARIOUS MEMBERS OF GROUP. WE LISTENED CAREFULLY; EXPLAINED TO THE BEST OF OUR ABILITY THE FACTS AS WE SAW THEM; TRIED TO CONVEY TO GROUP THE LIMITATIONS ON OUR ACTIONS AND INITIATIVES IN A FOREIGN COUNTRY, BOTH IN SEPTEMBER 1973 AND AT PRESENT; AND ARRANGED FOR THE GROUP TO BE PUT IN TOUCH WITH CHILEAN
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AUTHORITIES WHO IN FACT GAVE THEM BROAD OPPORTUNITIES TO

LOOK AROUND AND TALK.

4. AS FOR MR. TERUGGI PERSONALLY, I CAN UNDERSTAND AND AM FULLY SYMPATHETIC WITH HIS ANGUISH OVER THE LOSS OF HIS SON. IT IS A LITTLE MORE DIFFICULT FOR ME TO UNDERSTAND WHY HE PERSISTS IN REGARDING EMBASSY ACTIONS IN SEPTEMBER, AND WHILE HE WAS HERE IN FEBRUARY, AS SOMEHOW UNFRIENDLY OR UNHELPFUL.

5. TAKE, FOR EXAMPLE, THE STATEMENT THAT I DID NOT "BOTHER" TO OPEN THE LETTERS FROM SENATOR STEVENSON AND CONGRESSMAN YOUNG. THESE WERE HANDED TO ME IN THE MIDDLE OF A MEETING AT WHICH SIXTEEN PEOPLE WERE PRESENT. THEY WERE GIVEN TO ME AT THE OUTSET OF A VISIT THAT I KNEW WOULD LAST FOR A WEEK. I SAW NO REASON TO INTERRUPT THE FLOW OF DISCUSSION; I OPENED THE LETTERS IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE GROUP DEPARTED, AND RESPONDED AT ONCE (DEPARTMENT HAS COPIES OF REPLIES).

6. I HOPE DEPARTMENT WILL UNDERSTAND WHY I DID NOT AGREE TO DELIVER LETTERS TO GENERAL PINOCHET. QUITE APART FROM FACT THAT I HAD NOT YET PRESENTED MY CREDENTIALS, I MADE IT CLEAR TO GROUP FROM OUTSET THAT QUESTIONS TO AND REQUESTS OF THE GOC EMANATING FROM THIS GROUP OF PRIVATE CITIZENS SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO GOC THROUGH FOREIGN MINISTRY LIAISON CHANNEL WE HAD ARRANGED. IT SEEMED TO ME -- AND I STILL BELIEVE -- THAT PUTTING GROUP IN TOUCH WITH CHILEAN AUTHORITIES AND ALLOWING LETTERS TO BE HANDED TO THEM WAS QUITE ADEQUATE RESPOND TO TERUGGI'S SUDDEN PLOY OF PULLING OUT LETTERS TO PINOCHET.

7. EMBASSY HAS REPORTED FULLY ON OUR CONVERSATIONS WITH TERUGGI, AND DEPARTMENT HAS OUR CONCLUSION THAT EMBASSY WAS NOT GUILTY OF SINS OF COMMISSION OR OMISSION IN SEPTEMBER 1973, AND THAT WE EXERCISED DUE AND FULL DILIGENCE IN FOLLOWING UP WHAT LEADS WE HAD IN TERUGGI CASE.

8. I HOPE THE DEPARTMENT WILL BEAR IN MIND FACT THAT NOTHING THAT WE HAVE RECEIVED FROM MR. TERUGGI OR ANYONE ELSE CAN ALTER THE BASIC ELEMENTS OF THE SITUATION: THAT TERUGGI, JR. HAD NOT REGISTERED WITH THE EMBASSY AND WE DID NOT KNOW OF HIS EXISTENCE AT THE TIME OF HIS DEATH; THAT SUBSEQUENTLY
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THE EMBASSY OFFICERS CONCERNED DID THEIR BEST TO EXPLORE THE CIRCUMSTANCES AT A TIME OF GREAT UNSETTLEMENT AND CONFUSION; THAT WE HAVE REPEATEDLY ASKED MEMBERS OF THE CHILEAN GOVERNMENT TO GIVE US AS MUCH DATA AS THEY CAN ON THE CIRCUMSTANCES OF TERUGGI'S DEATH; AND THAT WHATEVER NEW ALLEGATIONS MAY BE BROUGHT FORWARD AT THIS DATE, THEY WILL SERVE LITTLE PURPOSE.

9. FROM WHAT MR. TERUGGI, SR. TOLD ME, IT IS QUITE CLEAR
THAT HE IS PUSHING FOR THE CESSATION OF AMERICAN COOPERATION
WITH AND ASSISTANCE TO THE GOVERNMENT OF CHILE UNTIL HE
GETS WHAT HE THINKS IS A SATISFACTORY ANSWER TO THE
DISCREPANCIES AND UNEXPLAINED ELEMENTS SURROUNDING HIS
SON'S DEATH. I AM SYMPATHETIC WITH HIS SORROW, BUT I CANNOT
IN ALL CONSCIENCE AGREE THAT TO TAKE THIS LINE WOULD BE
HELPFUL EITHER TO MR. TERUGGI OR TO THE UNITED STATES.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 08 MAR 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974SANTIA01163
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: SANTIAGO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740357/aaaacbff.tel
Line Count: 124
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: STATE 046918
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 11 SEP 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <11 SEP 2002 by kelleyw0>; APPROVED <03 JAN 2003 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: REPORT OF TERUGGI SR. ON CHILE VISIT
TAGS: CASC, CI, (TERUGGI, FRANK RANDALL)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005